

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 8 and 9 and amend claims 1, 4, 10-12, 14, and 15 as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A handle for a pair of scissors having a first blade and a second blade that are pivotally joined together at a center portion, each of the first and second blades having a cutting portion extending distally from the center portion, a first handle portion and a second handle portion extending proximally from the center portion, the first handle portion and the second handle portion including a joint portion of the first blade and a joint portion of the second blade, respectively, each extending from the associated cutting portion, the handle comprising: a finger support having an inner circumferential portion respectively being securable to the joint portion of each blade,

wherein an outer circumferential portion of the finger support of at least the first handle portion of the first and second handle portions includes a receptacle portion, an inner end, and an outer end, the receptacle portion receiving the joint portion of the first blade, the inner end extending from the receptacle portion over a range in which the finger support ~~supports~~ of the first and second handle portions respectively face each other when the first and second blades are held in a closed state, the outer end extending from the inner end to the receptacle portion,

wherein the outer end of the finger support of the first handle portion has an intermediate section, a first section, ~~and~~ a second section, and an embedded joint portion embedded in the finger support of the first handle portion ~~at the joint portion~~ of the first blade being exposed from the intermediate section; ~~[[,]]~~ the first and second sections extending from the intermediate

section to the receptacle portion and the inner end, respectively, with the intermediate section located between the first and second sections, the finger support of the first handle portion including an outer cover portion formed in at least one of the first and second sections for covering the embedded joint portion of the first blade,

wherein the outer cover portion of the first support of the first handle portion is shaped as a finger contact portion, and

wherein the finger contact portion has a finger contact surface recessed with respect to a first hypothetical plane including opposing ends of the finger contact portion.

2. (Previously presented) The scissors handle according to Claim 1, wherein the inner end of the finger support of the first handle portion includes an inner cover portion with which a contact portion formed in the finger support of the second handle portion is held in contact when the first and second blades are held in a closed state, the inner cover portion covering the embedded joint portion of the first blade.

3. (Previously presented) The scissors handle according to Claim 2, wherein the embedded joint portion of the first blade is exposed from the portions of the outer and inner ends of the finger support of the first handle portion except for the portions corresponding to the outer cover portion and the inner cover portion.

4. (Currently amended) The scissors handle according to Claim 2, wherein the outer circumferential portion of the finger support of the second handle portion includes a receptacle portion, an inner end, and an outer end, the receptacle portion receiving the joint

portion of the second blade, the inner end extending from the receptacle portion over a range in which the finger ~~supports~~ support of the first and second handle portions respectively face each other when the first and second blades are held in a closed state, the outer end extending from the inner end to the receptacle portion,

wherein the finger support of the second handle portion includes an inner cover portion formed at the inner end as the contact portion of the finger support of the second handle portion, the inner cover portion covering an embedded joint portion embedded in the finger support of the second handle portion at the joint portion of the second blade, and

wherein the embedded joint portion of the second blade is exposed from the portions of the outer and inner ends of the finger support of the second handle portion except for the portion corresponding to the inner cover portion serving as the contact portion.

5. (Previously presented) The scissors handle according to Claim 1, wherein each of the embedded joint portions extends along the outer circumference of the finger support of the corresponding one of the first and second handle portions, the finger supports of the first and second handle portions being provided in such a manner as to cover and hold the corresponding embedded joint portions.

6. (Previously presented) The scissors handle according to Claim 1, wherein the embedded joint portion of the first blade exposed from the outer end of the finger support of the first handle portion includes an exposed end, the exposed end projecting from the outer end for forming a step with respect to the outer end.

7. (Previously presented) The scissors handle according to Claim 6, wherein an end of the outer cover portion located adjacent to a portion of the exposed end of the embedded joint portion of the first blade exposed from the intermediate section of the finger support of the first handle portion projects from the exposed end and forms a step with respect to the exposed end.

8-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) The scissors handle according to Claim [[9]] 1, wherein the finger contact surface is curved in such a manner that a depth of the finger contact surface is maximized at an intermediate section between the opposing ends of the finger contact portion and becomes smaller from the intermediate section toward the ends of the finger contact portion.

11. (Currently amended) The scissors handle according to Claim [[9]] 1, wherein a portion of the embedded joint portion of the first blade covered by the finger contact portion includes a recessed end spaced from the finger contact surface.

12. (Currently amended) The scissors handle according to Claim [[9]] 1, wherein the outer cover portion of the finger support of the first handle portion serving as the finger contact portion is arranged in the first section extending between the intermediate section and the receptacle portion, not in the second section,

wherein the finger contact portion faces a finger support recess that is recessed with respect to a second hypothetical plane including the intermediate section of the outer end of the

finger support of the first handle portion and a back of the cutting portion of the second blade when the first and second blades are held in a closed state.

13. (Currently amended) The scissors handle according to Claim 12, wherein a depth of the finger contact surface with respect to the second hypothetical plane along a direction perpendicular to the first hypothetical plane including the opposing ends of the finger contact portion is set to five millimeters or more.

14. (Currently amended) ~~The scissors handle according to Claim 1, A handle for a pair of scissors having a first blade and a second blade that are pivotally joined together at a center portion, each of the first and second blades having a cutting portion extending distally from the center portion, a first handle portion and a second handle portion extending proximally from the center portion, the first handle portion and the second handle portion including a joint portion of the first blade and a joint portion of the second blade, respectively, each joint portion extending from the associated cutting portion, the handle comprising a finger support having an inner circumferential portion being securable to the joint portion of each blade,~~

~~wherein an outer circumferential portion of the finger support of at least the first handle portion of the first and second handle portions includes a receptacle portion, an inner end, and an outer end, the receptacle portion receiving the joint portion of the first blade, the inner end extending from the receptacle portion over a range in which the finger supports of the first and second handle portions face each other with the first and second blades held in a closed state, the outer end extending from the inner end to the receptacle portion,~~

wherein an inner end of the joint portion of the first blade, which extends between the receptacle portion of the finger support of the first handle portion and the center portion, and is located adjacent to the inner end of the finger support of the first handle portion, includes a narrowing recess for decreasing a width between the inner end of the joint portion of the first blade and an outer end of the joint portion of the first blade located adjacent to the outer end of the finger support of the first handle portion, whereby reducing the contact area at a contact point between the joint portions of the first and second blades located adjacent to the narrowing recess.

15. (Currently amended) The scissors handle according to Claim 14, wherein the narrowing recess is curved in such a manner that a depth of the narrowing recess with respect to a ~~third~~ another hypothetical plane including opposing ends of the narrowing recess is maximized at an intermediate section between the ends of the narrowing recess and becomes smaller from the intermediate section to the ends of the narrowing recess.

16. (Previously presented) The scissors handle according to Claim 1, wherein the finger support of each of the first and second handle portions is formed of resin.